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DECEMBER 10, 1958

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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: POLTO 1631, DECEMBER 10, 8 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT POLTO 1631, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN POLTO 281,
LONDON POLTO 444.

WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH EMBASSY, US ELEMENT SHAPE,
AND AMONG OURSELVES POSSIBLE FORMULATIONS OF A NATO POSITION
CONCERNING BERLIN. RAY THURSTON HAS COME UP WITH FOLLOWING
BRIEF FORMULATION WHICH STRIKES US AS EXCELLENT, AND COULD
POSSIBLY SERVE AS CORE OF NATO COMMUNIQUE ON THIS SUBJECT:

"THE WESTERN POSITION IN BERLIN IS NOT ONLY A SYMBOL
BUT ALSO A CONCRETE ASSURANCE THAT THE WEST WILL PERSIST
IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A PEACEFUL AND JUST SETTLEMENT
OF THE ENTIRE GERMAN QUESTION. UNTIL PROGRESS IS MADE
TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE, UNILATERAL EFFORTS TO CHANGE
THE SITUATION IN BERLIN CAN ONLY BE REGARDED AS PREJUDICIAL
TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF EUROPE AND, THEREFORE,
CANNOT BE ACCEPTED."

WE THINK A FORMULATION OF THIS KIND COULD BE A STANDARD
TO WHICH ALL NATO COUNTRIES COULD REPAIR WHILE DISCUSSIONS
CONTINUE ON DESIRABILITY OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER OF INITIATIVE
ON GERMAN PROBLEM. BELIEVE ALSO THIS KIND OF FORMULATION,
IF STATED EARLY IN DISCUSSION, WOULD TEND TO PULL TOGETHER
VARIOUS DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS AND NUANCES AMONG NATO
COUNTRIES WHICH COULD, IN COURSE OF EXPECTED LENGTHY
DISCUSSIONS, GET OUT OF PROPORTION. HOUGHTON AND NORSTAD
CONCUR.

BURGESS

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